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1941

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. AUSTELL



ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Austell Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting once again the Annual Report for this District.

War conditions are reflected in both its form and contents, for many desirable improvements in housing and sanitary conditions are necessarily in abeyance. I should like to emphasize again the importance of wide-spread inoculation for Diphtheria and in fact, I think that it should be made compulsory by the Government.

The general health of the District has been good and there has been distinctly less sickness than in the preceding year. The death rate is also lower and the Infant Mortality Rate has fallen considerably. Considering all the circumstances this is very satisfactory.

I am,
Your Obedient Servant,

E.G. ANDREW.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) 82,389.
 Population (Census 1931) 20,464.
 Population (estimated mid-1941) 22,770.
 Number of inhabited houses 1941 5943.
 Rateable Value £71,335
 Sum represented by a penny rate £318.

The principal industries are clay-mining and agriculture. There has been a considerable increase in the amount of land under cultivation.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total	Birth Rate per thousand of the population
Legitimate	136.	120	256	12.2
Illegitimate	12.	12	24	England & Wales 14.2
			<u>280</u>	London 14.7

Still Births.

	M.	F.	Total	Rate per 1000 of total births (live and still)
Legitimate	11.	8.	19	69.7
Illegitimate	1.	1.	<u>2</u>	Rate per 1000 of population .92
			<u>21</u>	England & Wales .51
				London .58

Deaths.

	M.	F.	Total	Crude Death Rate per 1000 of population
	126.	130.	256	11.2
				England & Wales 12.9
				London 14.9

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis Nil.

Deaths from Puerperal Crusts Nil.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (under one year).

	M.	F.	Total.	Rate per 1000 live births
Legitimate	6.	6.	12.	Rate for England & Wales 59.0
Illegitimate	1.	1.	<u>2</u>	Rate for London 71.0
			<u>14.</u>	

Deaths from Measles. 2.

Deaths from Whooping Cough 1.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 1.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

It is pleasing to note that the Infantile Mortality Rate has dropped once more to the same figure as in 1939, after its steep rise in 1940 and compares favourably with that registered in other parts of the country. Three-quarters of the Deaths were due to either Premature Birth or Congenital conditions.

THE CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Disease	56
Cancer	35
Bronchitis	21
Cerebral Haemorrhage	19
Tuberculosis (all Forms)	14
Nephritis	9
Diabetes	7
Pneumonia	6
Suicide	5
Road - Traffic	3
Other deaths from Accident	9

Cancer is again high in the list of the causes of death and is responsible for 13.6% of total deaths.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS

As might have been expected after the heavy incidence of Scarlet Fever in 1940, the present year has been marked by a considerable decrease in the number of cases reported, viz. 13 cases, none of which was fatal. Five cases occurred at Gorran and the rest were distributed in the northern part of the district.

A similar decrease has taken place after the big measles epidemic when 501 cases were reported in 1940. This year there were only 52 - 2 deaths took place. Of these cases of Measles 33 were reported from Gorran Haven.

Whooping Cough has been fairly general in the district, 87 cases having been reported but only one death occurred, 40 of these cases were at St. Dennis.

Diphtheria

No. of Notifications 23. Deaths 6.

Diphtheria is still on the increase, as was anticipated, but in view of the fact that it is a Reception area the increase has not been as serious as it might have proved. During 1941, 535 children between the ages of 5 and 15 years have been inoculated and many more not included in this age limit. It would be very desirable if this immunization were made compulsory for all children from one year to fifteen years of age. The Isolation Hospital continues to be a great help in the treatment of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, 22 cases from the Rural District have been treated there during 1941 and in addition all cases among evacuees in the District are sent to their special hospital at Truro, 7 cases of Diphtheria and 5 of Scarlet Fever being sent there in 1941, in addition to the 3 Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and 2 Paratyphoid.

Many cases of Diphtheria are probably due to infection from persons, who, while not suffering from the disease themselves, are carriers of the germ.

Pneumonia.

Nineteen notifications were received, deaths 6.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

3 cases were notified but there were no deaths.

Erysipelas.

2 cases were notified but neither was fatal.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

2 cases were notified and both did well.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

3 cases were reported - 2 at Gorran Haven and 1 at Summercourt. All were treated at the Truro Isolation Hospital and one of the cases from Gorran Haven was fatal.

Typhoid. (Paratyphoid)

1 case of paratyphoid was notified from St. Columb, the patient recovered.

Tuberculosis.

During 1941 9 cases were reported, 6 pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary this is an improvement on last year where 12 new cases were reported. The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis was 14, 11 pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary, about 75% of these had been previously notified. The death rate from this disease is about 5.5% of the total number of deaths in the area.

Scabies.

Although there was a certain improvement in 1941, Scabies was still rather prevalent in the district. The hostel at Castle-an-Dinas was reserved for dealing with these cases.

Food-Poisoning.

At Foxhole, a serious case of food-poisoning occurred in one family. Seven members of the household were affected, in the case of the youngest with fatal results. Careful investigation took place and a representative from the Ministry of Health assisted in the inquiry. Suspected tins of meat were sent to Dr. Hocking, the County Pathologist and although no positive result was obtained there seems little doubt that the infection arose from some organisms contained in those tins.

RECEPTION OF EVACUEES.

At the beginning of 1941 there were 1944 Unaccompanied children billeted in the district and 968 adults and children. In December 1941 the number had dropped to 1268 Unaccompanied children, 642 Adults and children.

During the year 34½% of Unaccompanied children left the district and 33½% of adults and children.

Their supervision has entailed a considerable amount of work by the Billeting Officer and his helpers not only in finding the original billets but removing evacuees where circumstances rendered this necessary or desirable. The additional hostels opened during the previous year at Trewoon and St. Dennis proved very useful.

WATER ANALYSES.

The following samples have been sent for analysis:-

Newgant Porth.

Trenance Estate Water which is causing considerable trouble is frequently analysed with varying results.

St. Mewan & St. Stephens.

Three analyses were made during the year, all were satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Owing to the centralization of Slaughtering more systematic inspections are being made during the year, four carcasses were condemned for tuberculosis infection.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There are two ambulances, one for infectious diseases and one for general cases which serve both St. Austell Urban and Rural Districts. The voluntary work of the staff is most praiseworthy and greatly appreciated by both patients and doctors in the area. The record for 1941 is given below:-

<u>Patients Carried</u>		<u>Total Mileage</u>
Infectious	57	
Road Accidents	29	
Hospital & Sickness	<u>258</u>	
	<u>344</u>	

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Infant Welfare Centre and Orthopaedic Clinic, both of which serve the Urban and Rural Districts, are still carrying on their excellent work. In addition there are Eye, Throat and Ear Clinics in the town and Dental ones in the various schools.

